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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. FUJI:288

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording medium comprising:

a nonmagnetic substrate;

an underlayer structure on the substrate; and

a magnetic recording layer on the underlayer structure,

wherein the magnetic recording layer is composed of a Co alloy,

wherein the underlayer structure comprises a combination of at least two nonmagnetic underlayers each composed of a material selected from pure metals and alloys having a bcc structure, and a Cr-Mn alloy thin film provided between the two nonmagnetic underlayers so that one of the two underlayers is in contact with the magnetic recording layer.

wherein the Cr-Mn alloy thin film has a thickness thereof ranging 0.5 nm to 2.5 nm, and

wherein one of the two underlayers is composed of pure Cr and the other of the two underlayers is composed of an alloy of Cr and at least one element selected from Mo, W, V, Ti, B and Ta.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the ~~nonmagnetic underlayers are each composed of pure Cr or a Cr alloy, and the Cr-Mn alloy thin film has an Mn content of not more than 30 at% and a thickness thereof ranging 0.5 nm to 2.5 nm.~~

4-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The magnetic recording medium according to claim ~~[[4]]~~1, wherein the other of the two underlayers is composed of an alloy of Cr and Mo.

7. (Currently Amended) The magnetic recording medium according to claim ~~[[5]]~~3, wherein the

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other of the two underlayers is composed of an alloy of Cr and Mo.

8. *(Original)* The magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the nonmagnetic substrate is composed of an aluminum alloy having thereon an Ni-P plating layer.

9. *(Original)* The magnetic recording medium according to claim 8, wherein the Ni-P plating layer that has a texture with an average roughness of 0.5 nm in a circumferential direction of the substrate.

10. *(Original)* The magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, further including a protective layer on the magnetic recording layer.

11. *(Currently Amended)* An underlayer structure for a magnetic recording medium having a magnetic recording layer, comprising:

at least two nonmagnetic underlayers each composed of a material selected from pure metals and alloys having a bcc structure, with one of the two underlayers adapted to be in contact with the magnetic recording layer; and

a Cr-Mn alloy thin film provided between the two nonmagnetic underlayers so that the one underlayer is in contact with the magnetic recording layer when the magnetic recording layer is formed on the one underlayer.

wherein the Cr-Mn alloy thin film has a thickness thereof ranging 0.5 nm to 2.5 nm, and wherein one of the two underlayers is composed of pure Cr and the other of the two underlayers is composed of an alloy of Cr and at least one element selected from Mo, W, V, Ti, B and Ta.

12. *(Canceled)*

13. *(Currently Amended)* The underlayer structure according to claim 11, wherein the ~~nonmagnetic underlayers are each composed of pure Cr or a Cr alloy, and the Cr-Mn alloy thin~~

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film has an Mn content of not more than 30 at% ~~and a thickness thereof ranging 0.5 nm to 2.5 nm.~~

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The underlayer structure according to claim ~~[[14]]~~11, wherein the other of the two underlayers is composed of an alloy of Cr and Mo.

17. (Currently Amended) The underlayer structure according to claim ~~[[15]]~~13, wherein the other of the two underlayers is composed of an alloy of Cr and Mo.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a magnetic recording medium comprising the steps of:

providing a nonmagnetic substrate;
forming an underlayer structure on the substrate; and
forming a magnetic recording layer on the underlayer structure,
wherein magnetic recording layer is composed of a Co alloy,
wherein the underlayer structure comprises a combination of at least two nonmagnetic underlayers each composed of a material selected from pure metals and alloys having a bcc structure, and a Cr-Mn alloy thin film provided between the two nonmagnetic underlayers so that one of the two underlayers is in contact with the magnetic recording layer,
wherein the nonmagnetic underlayers are each composed of pure Cr or a Cr alloy, and the Cr-Mn alloy thin film has a thickness thereof ranging 0.5 nm to 2.5 nm.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein ~~the nonmagnetic underlayers are each composed of pure Cr or a Cr alloy, and the Cr-Mn alloy thin film has an Mn content of not more than 30 at% and a thickness thereof ranging 0.5 nm to 2.5 nm.~~

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21. (*Currently Amended*) The method according to claim ~~[[19]]~~18, wherein one of the two underlayers is composed of pure Cr and the other of the two underlayers is composed of an alloy of Cr and at least one element selected from Mo, W, V, Ti, B and Ta.

22. (*Original*) The method according to claim 20, wherein one of the two underlayers is composed of pure Cr and the other of the two underlayers is composed of an alloy of Cr and at least one element selected from Mo, W, V, Ti, B and Ta.

23. (*Original*) The method according to claim 21, wherein the other of the two underlayers is composed of an alloy of Cr and Mo.

24. (*Original*) The method according to claim 22, wherein the other of the two underlayers is composed of an alloy of Cr and Mo.